

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
v.)
ANDREW LONG RYAN) Case No.
) 3:18-cr-00146
) CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW
)

BEFORE THE HONORABLE

CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE WAVERLY D. CRENSHAW, JR.

EXCERPTS OF PROCEEDINGS:
LEA ANN PRESTON BAECHT, Ph.D. ABPP

January 29, 2020

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff: Mr. J. Benjamin Schrader
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For the Defendant: Mr. Andrew C. Brandon
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1 The above-styled cause came on to be heard on
2 January 29, 2020, before the Honorable Waverly D.
3 Crenshaw, Jr., Chief District Judge, when the following
4 excerpted proceedings were had, to-wit:

5

6 (Proceedings excerpted from the testimony of
7 LEA ANN PRESTON BAECHT, Ph.D. ABPP):

8

9 THE COURT: And based on what you know about
10 Mr. Bryant -- I'm sorry -- Mr. Ryan, do you think he would be
11 a danger to others outside of a correctional facility?

12 THE WITNESS: I have not conducted a risk
13 assessment on him. So it would be premature for me to say
14 what the opinion would be. But I can tell you that our
15 process is, we have a panel of doctors, a psychiatrist,
16 psychologist, and social worker, who review their history,
17 speak to them, and then form an opinion on their level of
18 risk. So it's certainly possible that they would conclude
19 that he poses a danger to others if released to the
20 community, but that risk assessment has not been done at this
21 point, given that we're not at that stage in his case.

22 THE COURT: And based on your dealing with
23 Mr. Ryan -- I won't hold you to your opinion -- what do you
24 think?

25 THE WITNESS: I think he has some risk factors

1 that the committee would have to consider, such as there's in
2 the record that he's been involuntarily committed in the
3 past, that he's had weapons in the past, and that he's made
4 threats in the past. That being said, again, they would make
5 that determination. The panel -- the risk assessment panel
6 would make that determination after reviewing all of those
7 records and interviewing him, and then forming the opinion at
8 that moment.

9 (End of excerpt.)

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11 (Proceedings excerpted from the testimony of
12 LEA ANN PRESTON BAECHT, Ph.D. ABPP):

13

14 BY MR. BRANDON:

15 Q. So he's writing this Facebook post after he has been
16 formally diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Which is a chronic, incurable condition, right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. And it doesn't -- it doesn't get better without
21 medication?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So the May 28th post starts, quote: This is one of
24 those messages where I started talking and God took over.

25 Read it. It may not make sense now, but it will soon.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And that's pretty consistent with the religious ideation

3 that we've been discussing?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Grandiose, delusional ideation, I believe is the term.

6 Right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And the part about the plan that doesn't make sense now

9 but soon will is a lot like when he told you that he had

10 special knowledge that would blow your mind, right?

11 A. It is. Yes.

12 Q. And then the message says he's "warned the President of

13 the United States of death if he does not comply with a

14 directive I have given him." And it goes on to talk about

15 contacting federal agents for weeks and the unique position

16 that he's in?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And that's pretty consistent with what you've observed

19 where -- where he keeps saying that he's working with the FBI

20 or the Secret Service, right?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. He's got some sort of special position that allows him

23 to say these things?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And do you see the part in all caps where it says -- it

1 says: "Me making a paint to mucks times for more mind mind
2 raw mind and mine up down same we after leaving death,"
3 et cetera?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. And do you agree with me that this appears consistent
6 with the word puzzles and nonsensical phases that you
7 described?

8 A. I do agree with you on that. Yes.

9 Q. And if you go to the very end of the paragraph, it -- he
10 sort of signs off as -- as capital E, capital L, space, 0-N?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And do you agree with me that that's consistent with the
13 sort of mystical names that Mr. Ryan used for himself?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then if you look at paragraph 7, which describes a
16 May 29th, 2018, Facebook post. And that's -- that's just one
17 day after May 28th, right?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. And here he says: "This will all make sense
20 soon."

21 Right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And that's similar to what we've talked about, about
24 special knowledge that other people don't have?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. He says: "Think of me as a pop up ad for life in an app
2 that needs updating."

3 Right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And "I'm swatted away and ignored, but you won't be able
6 to ignore me soon."

7 Right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And that's a little ominous, right?

10 A. (Indicating.)

11 Q. But it's similarly grandiose and delusional, right?

12 A. It is. Yes.

13 Q. And then if we look at paragraph 8, which is another May
14 29th message, the second sentence says, "I'm a warning siren
15 and those who cry the loudest know what I'm talking about."

16 Right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And once again, that looks a bit like a grandiose
19 delusion, right?

20 A. It's consistent with it, yes.

21 Q. And the last sentence: "Death is coming," could also be
22 interpreted as grandiose, right?

23 A. Yes. Potentially.

24 Q. Just suggests he's sort of in control of these events or
25 has special knowledge about them, right?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And then finally, if we look at paragraph 9, we see a
3 Twitter post. And it says, "I will kill Donald Trump if you
4 don't follow my leader's lead."

5 Right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And once again we have this idea that he's in on some
8 sort of secret plan.

9 Right?

10 A. Yes. He's referring to "my leader" without saying who
11 it is.

12 Q. Right. Right. And -- and he has great power that's
13 sort of divine of some sort?

14 A. Presumably, yes.

15 Q. Right. And if you put all of these messages together,
16 do you agree with me that they're pretty much 100 percent
17 consistent with your diagnosis?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. And, in fact, he had already been diagnosed with
20 Schizophrenia before these messages?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Is it safe to conclude that these messages are sort of
23 part and parcel with his illness?

24 A. I think they reflect his thought process and his mental
25 illness, yes.

1 Q. They're -- they're symptomatic of Schizoaffective
2 Disorder?

3 A. They're consistent with it, yes.

4 Q. And -- and they're -- they're, you know, several months
5 after he's alr- -- certain incidents that you used to sort of
6 reach your conclusion about Schizoaffective Disorder, right?

7 A. Correct.

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9 (End of excerpt.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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3 I, Lise S. Matthews, Official Court Reporter for
4 the United States District Court for the Middle District of
5 Tennessee, with offices at Nashville, do hereby certify:6 That I reported on the Stenograph machine the
7 excerpted proceedings held in open court on January 29, 2020,
8 in the matter of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. ANDREW LONG
9 RYAN, Case No. 3:18-cr-00146; that said proceedings in
10 connection with the hearing were reduced to typewritten form
11 by me; and that the foregoing transcript (pages 1 through 8)
12 is a true and accurate record of said proceedings.

13 This the 27th day of February, 2020.

14

15 /s/ Lise S. Matthews
16 LISE S. MATTHEWS, RMR, CRR, CRC
17 Official Court Reporter

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